

THE JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,
BY JAMES HARPER,
At the low price of \$1 50, in advance

Office in Telegraph Building,
Public Square.

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GALLIPOLIS.

THURSDAY, - - DEC. 19, 1850.

LEGISLATIVE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.
Those members of the Legislature friendly to the organization of Legislative Temperance Society met in the Senate Chamber, one evening last week. Gov. Ford was appointed Chairman. The Society was permanently organized by electing Lewis, of the Senate, President; Williamson, of the House, and Cunningham, of the Senate, Vice Presidents; Feischild, of the House, Secretary, and James, of the House, Treasurer. The meeting was addressed during the evening by Gov. Ford, and Mr. Geiger, of the Senate.

Legislation.
The following letter reached us too late for insertion in our last. We hope to hear from this correspondent frequently.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 7, 1850.

Dear Sir: I have not before had an opportunity of saying anything to you in reference to affairs here. You have no doubt learned, by the Columbus papers, that the "balance of power," as usual, has played into the hands of the Locofocos. This thing yeilded Free Soilers, is nothing more nor less, (when in power at Columbus), than unadulterated Locofocoism.

Yesterday the Democrats and Free Soilers (except Williamson,) voted in effect, to give Sam. Medary the House printing, by placing it at the disposal of C. W. Blair, the Locofoco clerk, "at prices not exceeding those of last year." You will see by reference to the proceedings in yesterday's Journal, that the Whigs offered to amend the printing resolution, by inviting competition, and awarding it to the lowest "responsible bidder." This amendment, was voted down by two of a majority; the Free Soilers voting with the Democrats, except Williamson, who voted with the Whigs. This operation will put in Sam Medary's pockets, 4 or \$5000 more than a fair, living, compensation, and that much more than other responsible men would have done the printing for.

How long our Whig Free Soil friends will contribute, by their votes and influence, to elevate such men to power, remains to be seen. If they justify their friends here, in fratricizing with the Democrats in the Legislature, how can they justify their conduct in voting thousands of dollars of the people's money away, without consideration?

If the developments that can and will be made this winter, do not have the effect to open the eyes of our Whig friends who have become identified with the Free Soil party, in Ohio, to the inevitable tendency and intentions of their party leaders, to sell them to the Locofocos, "for a few pieces of silver," then, all we have to say is that they will not believe, "though one rose from the dead." More anon, S.

Handed up from the State Journal's reports.

SENATE, Dec. 10.
The resolution, introduced by Mr. Eckley, yesterday, that the standing committee on printing of the Senate, bid for proposals for executing the State printing, was debated. The Locofocos preferred that the clerk should do the business rather than the committee. Mr. Randall, Free Soil, moved to substitute the clerk of the Senate in place of the committee on Printing. The motion to strike out lost. The resolution was amended by extending the time to the 14th, and passed. The bill making appropriations in part for 1851 was taken up, and recommitted to committee on finance.

HOUSE.—The bill to amend the act entitled an act for the protection of sheep, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. Cherrington gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to lay out and establish a State road in the counties of Gallia and Jackson.

Mr. Bundy, from Committee on Railroads, reported back the bill to authorize the Scioto & Hocking Valley Railroad to negotiate their bonds with one amendment. The Committee appointed to wait upon the Governor elect, reported that he would attend in the Hall on the 12th, at 3 o'clock, P. M. to take the oath of office. Mr. Fairchild introduced a bill supplementary to the act exempting homesteads.

SENATE, 11th.—Resolutions were introduced by Sullist, and Pardoe condemnatory of the Fugitive Slave Law. The Governor and Secretary of State appeared and proceeded to count the votes for members of Congress.

HOUSE.—On motion of Mr. Bundy, the resolution relative to the time of adjournment was taken up. Mr. Bennett moved that the 1st Monday in February be stricken out, and the 1st of January inserted, which was accepted by the majority.

Mr. Smith, of Clermont, opposed. He thought it would require some time to elect the great number of

officers which would devolve upon this General Assembly. If the gentleman from Jackson could tell how long, he would then know when he would adjourn.

Mr. Bundy thought that that was already fixed up. He supposed that but little time was required to finish the arrangement. If he was mistaken in that, he would not be in favor of adjourning so soon.

Messrs. Frazier and Dodds opposed the resolution.

A loose debate then sprung up, relative to the election of State officers.

Mr. Hliff believed that the House should elect a U. S. Senator immediately. Mr. Ewing was now in the Senate by no constitutional right. He held his office by usurpation.

The resolution was then laid on the table.

Mr. Hliff offered a resolution appointing a committee of 5 to inquire by what right Mr. Ewing holds his seat in the Senate of the U. S. Mr. Bundy moved to lay the resolutions on the table—lost, 34 to 34. Mr. Van Vorhes moved to strike out and insert that the Attorney General be requested to inform the House, &c.,—to strike out carried, to insert lost.

SENATE, 12th.—The bill making appropriations in part for 1851, passed.

The Speaker presented the report of John Welch on the affairs of the Zanesville and Maysville Turnpike Co. Laid on the table and 1000 extra copies ordered to be printed.

The inauguration of Gov. Wood took place in the Hall of the House. Mr. Bundy presented a petition from 181 citizens of Jackson county, for the repeal of the law authorizing the commissioners of that county to subscribe to the stock of the Iron Railroad company.

A resolution was introduced to go into the election of U. S. Senators for the short term on the 17th, laid on the table. The Governor elect appeared and the oath of office was administered by Judge Hitchcock.

SENATE, 13th.—Resolutions were introduced complaining that the printing resolutions permitted no one but a practical printer to bid, and asking that portion be rescinded—referred. Mr. Randall introduced resolutions on the subject of Slavery, ordered to be printed.

HOUSE.—Resolutions to go into election of U. S. Senator for short term on 18th, passed.

SENATE, 14th.—Majority of Printing Committee reported against resolutions offered yesterday. The bill allowing the S. and H. Valley Railroad to negotiate their bonds passed. A motion to postpone time of receiving bids for printing occupied the whole day.

The House adjourned after an unimportant session at 11 A. M.

Dec. 16.—Nothing of interest transpired in the House. The Senate unanimously voted against the right of Leiter, of Stark, to a seat, and refused to pay his per diem and expenses.

☞ The Deputy Marshal, JOHN E. HOLCOMBS, furnishes us with the following statement, taken from his complete returns, of the population of Gallia county.

Townships,	1840	1850,
Addison	692	924
Cheshire	791	1411
Clay	745	949
Town of Gallipolis	1647	1636
Gallipolis Township	1412	542
Green	1047	1574
Greenfield	639	952
Guyon	343	560
Huntington	971	1308
Harrison	668	1009
Morgan	744	1282
Perry	972	1308
Raccoon	1610	1474
Springfield	991	1230
Ohio	424	504
Walnut	636	903
	13444	17066

Blacks and mulattoes in the several townships, number as follows:—

Addison 17, Gallipolis 330, Green 141, Greenfield 216, Guyon 11, Huntington 49, Morgan 105, Perry 32, Raccoon 140, Springfield 143, Ohio 12, Walnut 1, making in all 1197.

It will be recollected that 12 sections have been attached to Jackson county from Raccoon, and 6 from Greenfield, since 1840. In the twelve sections from Raccoon, there are 491 souls, and in the six taken from Greenfield, 190. Wilkville, attached to Vinton county, contains 1025; in 1840, 733. Thus the total population within the old limits of the county is 18772. The increase has been greatest in Cheshire and Greenfield, and smallest in Ohio.

To those subscribers who receive their papers at McGhee's store, Jackson county, we can only say that their papers have been regularly put into the Post Office here. We will make the necessary inquiries to ascertain the cause of the delay.

☞ Mr. Vose requests us to say that the present term of his school will close on Friday, and that the second term will commence on Monday next.

☞ Want of space compels us to omit the publication of several articles prepared for this week. We shall have done with Messages after this week, and will furnish hereafter more general intelligence, Congressional, convention proceedings, &c.

Governor Wood's Inaugural Address.

Gentlemen of the Senate.

and House of Representatives.
Called by the voice of the people to the Chief Magistracy of this State, I now appear before you, in obedience to long established usage, to take the oath of office required by the Constitution, and to declare the course of policy by which I design to be controlled in my official relations.

In the first place, however, I will avail myself of this occasion to express to you as the representatives of our common constituents, my humble gratitude for the high and honorable distinction conferred, and the confidence reposed in me, properly to discharge the duties of the office.

Occupying this high place, which, from the nature of our institutions, can be enjoyed by but few, I am, I trust, fully sensible that it has not been conferred to gratify any selfish vanity, nor to enable me to indulge in any personal ambition, but in order that its duties may be so discharged so as to promote the public welfare, and that any influence arising from it may be directed for the benefit of the entire people.

As I have ever considered the confidence and approbation of the people, when they voluntarily spring from the acts of a public servant, and are unsought by servility, to be the most acceptable reward a public servant can attain, I shall endeavor to discharge the duties of this new position with frankness, and with a strict regard to justice, in my official relations with all; and cannot but hope that the many imperfections of my administration, and the unintentional errors into which I may be led, from a want of judgment or experience, will be viewed with the same forbearance, treated with the same candor, and excused by the same friendship, I have so often received in other responsible relations to the community, from the people of this State.

By the Constitution of Ohio, the Governor is for wise purposes no doubt, limited as to any extensive patronage.

His powers are clearly defined by that instrument, and they are but few. He is, nevertheless, the representative of more than two millions of people, whose foundations of government are deeply laid in their patriotism and affections. Having advanced with rapid strides, our State is now flourishing in agricultural, commercial and mechanical prosperity; her common schools, and other institutions of learning—her asylums for the unfortunate—her extensive public improvements, both by State and private enterprise, are favorites with a large majority of her people. The latter have opened new channels of intercommunication between distant sections, affording an easy cheap and speedy transit for our surplus products to an eastern and southern market; and all these objects should receive the fostering care of the government, and never be affected by illiberal or hostile legislation.

Under the surrounding circumstances of prosperity, I feel more than an ordinary diffidence, that even the limited functions of the office will not be exercised with that wisdom which may be best calculated to promote the farther advancement and elevation of the State, in that which may contribute to her best interests and most permanent welfare. I shall, however, with an honest, but with a fearless independence, strive not to fall behind, but to keep pace with the spirit of progress of this enlightened age in which we live, according to the best lights I am able to obtain.

Nor should any public functionary, nor the people themselves, in the performance of their various obligations, become insensible to a high constitutional duty, which they owe to the government of the Union, and the other members of the confederacy, where there are, also, institutions to maintain and interests to protect.

By a strict regard to this duty, all are safe without the most fearful anticipations of evil arise.

The fourth section of the second article of the constitution of Ohio provides, that the Governor "shall, from time to time, give to the General assembly information of the state of the government, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem expedient."

My predecessor, in his annual message, has performed these duties. His position has afforded him the opportunity of knowing the political and financial condition of the government; the moral condition, the necessities and wants of the people.

I shall add but little to his suggestions on this occasion; and should anything important hereafter occur to me, during your session, it will be made the subject of a special communication.

It has been the remark of age, wisdom and experience, more extensive than mine, that the assembling of the representatives of the people in their legislative capacity, to consult for the welfare, and to devise the means necessary to advance the security, the happiness and prosperity of those whom they represent, is, at all times, interesting and important in the political history of every State. The office of representative is one of dignity and responsibility. It is upon the wisdom and integrity with which its obligations are performed,

that the quiet and security, the happiness and prosperity of an entire community, very essentially depend.—Nor is it merely as a legislator, in his official character, that the representative of the people may be heard and felt, for good or for evil, throughout the length and breadth of the State. Such is the dignity of the office that it carries with it an influence that may pervade every rank of society, and improve or corrupt the moral, social, and religious character of an entire community.

Example is contagious, and it is all important that those who have been selected for their intelligence, their wisdom and moral worth, should not, as I am certain they will not, disappoint the public expectation, but satisfy it, by an honest, honorable, and industrious discharge of every legislative, moral or civil duty.

In republican or representative forms of government freedom of opinion is tolerated. Free investigation and free discussion are essentially necessary to form correct conclusions of the propriety or impropriety of important measures. Entire unanimity is but seldom attained; and perhaps it is not best that it should be. As individuals will travel different roads, starting from the same place to reach the same point, they will pursue different modes to effect the same result, in most human affairs.

If parties are thus formed, scrutiny follows: and the adoption of those measures which will not stand the test of experience and investigation, are usually prevented. If not, they react upon and diminish the strength of that party that brought them into practical operation, and sometimes, effectually overthrow it. The masses of the people being honest, there is, and there should be, no party obligation not readily yielded to the higher and more paramount duty every one owes to his country.

But, notwithstanding party exists, and three distinct organizations are found in our State, and in each branch of the General Assembly, it is not perceived that any difficulty need occur in the early despatch of the public business, and which economy and duty both require as the best service to our constituents, if there is an honest determination to pursue an elevated and an honorable course towards each other; to investigate with candor—to cultivate a spirit of conciliation and charity towards those who differ with us in sentiment; yielding proper respect to the opinions and motives of all, but above every other consideration, keeping the character and dignity of the State directly in view, and with a firm determination that neither its interests nor its character shall be impaired by any unwise or selfish adherence to the discipline of party organization.

Permit me, on this occasion, to suggest to you the propriety, at this time, of dispensing with general and multifarious subjects of legislation of a permanent character.

The ordinary appropriations which are necessary to continue the operations of the government another year, with such measures as may be deemed important to keep inviolate the public faith, and to protect and preserve the public credit, with such action as is required to prescribe the times of holding the judicial courts, are believed to be the most important of temporary measures.

I would particularly recommend that your early attention should be directed to the Court Bill. Great inconveniences have arisen, expenses have accrued, and greivous delays of justice resulted to suitors, from the late period of the passage of the act, and the want of information of its provisions, in the distant counties of the State, in time to prepare for the disposal of the public business in pursuance of its requisitions.

The reason for the suggestion, that most objects of permanent general legislation should, at this session, be dispensed with, is the fact, that the Constitutional Convention is now sitting in a neighboring city; and from the acknowledged wisdom and experience to be found in that body, it is believed, in the course of a few months, a new Constitution, worthy of their acceptance, will be submitted to the people for adoption, receive their approbation, and become the organic law of the State. If so, an entire revision of the most of our public statutes may be necessary, another year, with many new enactments, to carry out the requirements of the new Constitution.

It is believed, no substantial evils can result from pursuing the course suggested, while much useless labor may be saved; the treasury relieved from heavy additional burthens, and the representatives of the people enabled, at an early day, to return to their constituents and their homes.

The fifth section of the same article of the Constitution confers on the Executive the authority "to grant reprieves and pardons, after conviction, except in cases of impeachment."

This power, so necessary to be vested somewhere, in every complete system of government, it must be admitted, is extremely liable to abuse. This may arise by withholding the exercise of this power, as well as by its too frequent application. No definite rules of action can be established by which to guide the discretion of the Executive, if tenaciously adhered to, without the certainty of occasional public injury, or private injustice. Every application for pardon or reprieve, must rest in the exercise of a sound discretion, and depend upon its own merits and its own individual circumstances.

The certainty, rather than the severity, of punishment, is conceded as the better course to secure the observance of those rules which every government must adopt for the security of itself and its citizens against the lawless violence of the licentious and profligate. The penal code of this State inflicts no cruel nor unusual punishments. It is, in the main, as mild in its penalties for guilt, as the law of any civilized country, and our modes of trial are as well calculated to secure and protect innocence as could well be devised, with any regard to public justice.

It has always appeared to me, therefore, before the law should be interrupted in its course, the Governor should be well satisfied of the illegality or injustice of the sentence which it had pronounced; that the example which had been set, and the reformation of the offender, and fully satisfied the claims of public justice; or that extraordinary circumstances had arisen, subsequent to the conviction, which rendered it inhuman and unchristian that punishment should be longer consigned.

I am of the opinion, that the pardoning power was designed to reach very few, if any other cases, than those enumerated. That it should be but sparingly used, and that the Executive should not forget, while he sees and hears of the sorrows of others, that the safety and security of society depend, very essentially, on a rigid, impartial and energetic administration of penal laws.

The 7th section of the same article enacts, that the Governor "may require information in writing from the officers in the executive department, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

This provision was designed, I conclude, to authorize the Governor to examine and advise in relation to the transaction of business, in the other executive departments of the government; a power which may be essential to the knowledge required to enable the Executive, in his annual message, at the commencement of the General Assembly, or from time to time, to give that body information of the state of the government, and that a supervisory influence may be exerted, calculated to effect the punctual and faithful discharge of official obligations.

In the performance of this important duty, I shall invite the most frank and friendly communication with the subordinate executive departments, and shall doubtless, more frequently, be under the necessity of asking advice in my own department, than imparting it in theirs; and shall strive to maintain the most friendly and confidential relations, so essential to the public interest, in the discharge of duties connected by official intercourse.

There is one subject of general legislation, in addition to those before enumerated, however, to which I would invite your particular attention. I do so, with great respect for the opinions of those with whom I may differ, and not without doubts, whether it should not be left until the result of the deliberations of the Convention is known, as that body, in my opinion, possesses supreme power over it, in all things, not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States.

I allude to the great banking system of the State. A system, by no means, without its evils and imperfections, as all must concede.

The question is not now, however, whether the General Assembly has the constitutional power to repeal the charters of private monied corporations, and annul their usual and ordinary franchises. As to the exercise of this power, there is a diversity of sentiment. The right has been denied by the repeated decisions of the highest judicial tribunals of the country, while the affirmative has been ably and zealously maintained, by political writers of great merit, and statesmen of distinguished ability.

I think it may be safely asserted, however, that all special legislation for the benefit of capital, at the expense of labor, that is in the character of a monopoly and confers upon the few exclusive privileges which the many are prohibited to enjoy, are utterly inconsistent with the nature and spirit of our democratic institutions.

They should be very seldom, if ever granted, and when found to be injurious to the best interests of the community, there ought, some where, to exist the unquestioned authority to remedy every evil they inflict.

There are many modes in which, I apprehend, there is no doubt, but what a monied corporation can be reached by legislative enactment, though the charter is silent on the subject. It may be visited, examined, and its course of business controlled so as to meet the convenience and afford security to the community, by information and exposure of its affairs.

But the important question to which I would invite your particular attention at this time, is the admitted inequality of the taxes paid by the banks upon their property, when compared with those paid by other individuals upon theirs, and leave it to your better wisdom to devise and apply the remedy, if one exists.

Property is the basis of taxation, and the public burthens should be equally distributed in the ratio of its

possession. The farmer with but scanty means; the mechanic who labors from day to day; the merchant or manufacturer, though his business be ruinous, is taxed from one to two per cent. on the full value of everything he has; but the capitalist places his means in bank, by the purchase of stock, and he is exempted, under any possible contingency, from the payment of any other than a state tax, and that limited to but six per cent. on his net profit.

This feature was introduced into the system, I suppose, to invite the investment of capital from abroad; and while it has had such tendencies, it has enabled our own citizens to avail themselves of it, by the most profitable employment of their money, and, at the same time, by avoiding their just proportion of the public burthens.

There is reason for the belief, that any such system of inequality, is high a price to be paid for any benefits received, because it is directly opposed to the genius and spirit of democratic institutions, one of whose fundamental doctrines is an equal distribution of the burthens of government.

The feeling is by no means confined to any political party, exclusively, that the banking institutions of the state, one and all, as they are protected by our laws, and supported by the toil and industry of our people, should consent, without contest or delay, to contribute their just proportion to the public expenditures; but if they decline acceding to so equitable and reasonable a measure, that they should be constrained to do so, if the constitutional and legal means are within the province of the General Assembly.

There is, I believe, no chartered guaranty, that the officers of State shall receive their issues for taxes, or tolls, or in payment of the State lands, and there can be no room for question but what the prohibition for such purposes, of the reception of their issues by the agents of the State until their assent shall be given to such a reasonable proposition as may be made, is within the legal as well as discretionary limits of legislation; but aside from this, it is worthy of the most serious inquiry, whether the General Assembly has, at one session, the constitutional power to dispense with, or bargain away, the right of taxation to any part of the State so as to prevent the resumption of the right by the General Assembly, at any subsequent session. If the affirmative is maintained, and a part of the property of the State may be forever exempted from the public burthen, there is not, nor can there be, any well-defined limit to this power. The whole taxable property of the State may be placed beyond its reach, the State unable to provide for its ordinary expenses of government, or defend itself against a common enemy.

I incline to the opinion, that this high sovereign power to levy taxes, cannot be disposed of to any corporation, by one, so as to prevent a succeeding General Assembly from resuming it; and I could, if necessary, find distinction between this, as a negative, and those which may be called the positive franchise of a corporation, and necessary to its existence, and look upon the exemption from taxation as an exception to the general rule, that chartered rights cannot be taken away or impaired, as is claimed, by the advocates of such a doctrine.

I am not unaware that the case of the State v. the Commercial Bank of Cincinnati is opposed to this view of corporate rights; but that decision was made many years since, and by a divided court, and one of the Judges who concurred in that opinion has, on another occasion, very justly remarked, "that laws must be so extended or contracted as to meet the exigencies of society"—alluding to the common law of England, no doubt, which was only adopted in this State so far as should be found strictly applicable to our condition.

The case to which reference has been made, determined so many years since, cannot be considered as of very binding authority. Since that period, multitudes of moneyed and other corporations have sprung into life, and their conflicting claims with government and people render it highly expedient that the rules hitherto recognized, and claimed as placing these institutions beyond the reach of either judicial or legislative correction, should now be reviewed, modified, and placed on a foundation more consistent with the spirit of our laws and the rights of all.

Having thus, very briefly, referred to certain subjects of State policy, and some of the functions of the Executive, as in my humble judgment they ought to be performed, I could wish that nothing remained but to take the oath of office and retire from this hall. But I cannot do so consistently with public expectation, without a frank expression of my views on a question now pending before the people, which threatens the stability of the Union, the supremacy of the laws, and to disturb the good order and quiet which has hitherto, with very few exceptions, prevailed since the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1790.

An excitement is spread over a

large extent, and pervades every rank and condition in life, and unless allayed, and other counsels prevail, collisions between government and people may produce civil war, of which no one can predict the consequences to the General or State Governments, or to freedom throughout the world.

The question of human slavery is, and ever has been, a subject of discord in the relations the several States bear to each other, and to the General Government, which is bound to protect the constitutional rights and interest of each.

The Democratic party ever has and ever will oppose either the diffusion or extension of slavery into any free territory of the United States, by every legal and constitutional means, and would rejoice if any mode, not doing violence to others, could be devised "to overthrow and eradicate the evil."

That Congress, having by the Constitution authority to legislate for the district of Columbia, "in all cases whatsoever," may there abolish it, I entertain no doubt; Congress is by the Constitution, the local legislature of the District, and all cases within the legitimate sphere of legislation are embraced within the terms, "in all cases whatsoever," as used in that instrument.

Congress appears to me to possess the same legislative power over slavery within the ten miles square, that may be exercised by the legislatures of the slave States over it within their jurisdictions; and that it has been considered in those States, a proper subject of legislation, their history furnishes the most satisfactory evidence.

I have ever viewed the abolition of slavery in the District, not only a measure of expediency, but of absolute natural right to the colored race. The South would doubtless acquiesce in such a measure; for if we expect to remain one people there is an absolute necessity of adhering to the decisions of Constitutional majorities, within their legitimate spheres of action.

But the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and in the slave States, in my opinion, stand upon different grounds as to the power of Congress over it.

The Executive of Vermont, in his late message to the General Assembly, intimates the opinion that Congress may abolish slavery in the States where it now exists. How far this opinion prevails I am not informed, but I believe the exercise of any such authority by Congress would be followed by a dissolution of the Union. The South would then be driven to it, to preserve their peculiar institution under their own local authority.

The entire South, and I believe a large majority of the North, would look upon such action as an unwarranted usurpation by Congress, for which there is no authority, expressly granted or fairly to be implied, from the Constitution of the United States.

The excitement to which I have before referred, appears to have entirely grown out of the passage, approval, and partial execution, in a few instances, of what is called the Fugitive Slave Law, by Congress.

Conventions have denounced it as unconstitutional. The Clergy have declared it in opposition to the higher law of God, and therefore void. The slave and the citizens have been advised and invited to arm and oppose the execution of this law, to the shedding of human blood, and all this is done in the peaceable and orderly State of Ohio, and I think is the result of mistaken judgment; if not, and the law is actually void, they are right, and I could justify the noble impulses which prompt interference between freedom and servitude, in opposition to law, whether white or black. But let us for a moment search after truth, and if we find it, acknowledge its force. Let the ground we occupy, at least, be well considered, before we hasten to results calculated to weaken the public confidence in the supremacy of our laws and the wisdom and stability of our institutions.

There is, I think, no doubt, that the Supreme Court of the United States will sustain every provision of this law, as constitutional, when the occasion shall arise. One of its northern members has already done so, in the case of Garnett. The decisions of this tribunal are absolutely conclusive on all others, on questions growing out of the constitution of the United States. It is the national tribunal, and its opinions final. There is no appeal. If I am right in this, whenever commits any overt acts of violence against the execution of this law, is guilty of a misdemeanor; and if death ensue, may be guilty of murder.

But I cannot drop the subject here. With a natural aversion to the institution of slavery, and the evils that I believe it entails, on any people, I should be false to myself and false to truth, if I did not express the opinion, that the law is consistent with constitutional obligations between the States.

The Constitution provides, in the last clause of the 3rd section, of the 4th act, that "no person held to service or labor, in one state, under the law thereof, escaping into another,